

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Commission on Employment and Economic Security Act.

More than 2.6 million Americans have lost their jobs since President Bush took office in January 2001. In fact, the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that in September 2003, 9 million Americans were officially jobless. Some experts, including the BLS, have suggested that the number of unemployed or underemployed is actually somewhere near 15.5 million. The BLS notes that approximately 6.5 million workers are underemployed or so frustrated at the current job market that they have given up looking for jobs.

During times of high unemployment, Americans experience increases in domestic abuse, alcoholism, crime, illness, and in many instances, suicides. All of these increases stem not only from the loss of one's job, but also from the depression that develops as a result of extended unemployment.

Realize, current U.S. public policy addresses the economic hardships that arise from unemployment through the unemployment insurance program. For a privileged few, the government even assists in providing health care to the unemployed. But what the U.S. government fails to do is provide assistance to the unemployed in dealing with the human dimension of unemployment.

Perhaps this is true because the human factor does not allow for a one size fits all formula solution. Or perhaps it's because Congress never thinks about the human factor, labeling the unemployed as lazy and unmotivated, rather than the victims of economic situations of the times that they are. But for whatever reason, Congress has never addressed this very important tool in understanding the effects of long-term unemployment. That, Mr. Speaker, is completely unacceptable.

The legislation I introduce today establishes the National Commission on Employment and Economic Security, a national commission to examine the psychological effects of extended unemployment. Specifically, the 15 member commission is instructed to examine increases in violence by employees and former employees in the workplace and in their private lives, the effects of well-paying jobs in the U.S., the psychological insecurity caused by the loss of a job, and make recommendations to the Legislative and Executive branches on actions to alleviate the psychological insecurity of the U.S. workforce.

I am confident that this commission will provide Congress and the President with an array of policy recommendations on how we might best address the human factor of unemployment. The livelihoods of more than fifteen million Americans are depending on it.

I ask for the support of my colleagues, and I urge the House Leadership to bring the bill to the floor expeditiously.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HISTORIC SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 155TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Second Baptist Church, the second oldest African American Baptist congregation in the District of Columbia, as it prepares to celebrate its 155th anniversary on Sunday, November 16, 2003, and its designation as a historic landmark in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites by the Historic Preservation Review Board.

History has documented the critical role African American churches have played not only as places of spiritual fortification, but also as centers of political activism, and neighborhood preservation. Second Baptist Church is a shining example of these functions.

Second Baptist Church, located at 816 3rd Street, NW., is a longstanding anchor of a changing neighborhood north of H Street and west of North Capitol Street. Founded in 1848, Second Baptist Church was started 14 years before slaves in the District of Columbia were freed.

The church was erected in 1894 and designed by prominent Washington architect, Appleton P. Clark, Jr. Second Baptist Church represents a revival of the early phase of Gothic church architecture, but rendered in late Victorian fashion. The beautiful rose window, square towers and rusticated limestone on a granite base are suggestive of Romanesque.

Second Baptist Church began when seven members of the First Colored Baptist Church, now Nineteenth Baptist Church, left to organize the Second Colored Baptist Church of Washington City, District of Columbia.

Second Baptist Church served as a station on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War and the preceding years. It was one of the few Negro churches in Washington, D.C. that had a black minister prior to President Lincoln's Inauguration.

Second Baptist Church is considered the "Mother Church" for the Baptist community because from it Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in NW; Mt. Olive Baptist Church in NW; Rehoboth Baptist Church in SW; Central Baptist Church (later disbanded); St. Paul Baptist Church in Bladensburg, MD; Ebenezer and First Baptist in Takoma Park, MD were formed.

During the course of its 155 years, Second Baptist Church has had only 15 pastors: Licentiate H.H. Butler—1848; Rev. Jeremiah Asher—1849; Rev. Gustavus Brown—1850; Rev. Henry Butler—1853; Rev. Sandy Alexander—1856; Rev. Caleb Woodward—1861; Rev. John Mays (Maze)—1864; Rev. Sandy Alexander—1865; Rev. Chauncey Leonard—1868; Rev. John Gaines—1869; Rev. Madison Gaskins—1871; Rev. William Bishop Johnson—1883; Rev. Dr. J.L.S. Hollowman—1917; Rev. Smalls Bartley—1971; and Rev. Dr. James E. Terrell—1997 to the present.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting Rev. James E. Terrell, and the congregation of Second Baptist Church in the Dis-

trict of Columbia on the occasion of its 155th anniversary, November 16, 2003.

FREEDOM FOR HÉCTOR FERNANDO MASEDA GUTIERREZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Héctor Fernando Maseda Gutierrez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Maseda, age 60, is an engineer and physicist by profession. He studied the logic and reason behind how machines work, how nature operates. He also realized that Castro's repressive regime constitutes a nightmare for the Cuban people.

Mr. Maseda joined pro-democracy groups that work to obtain basic human rights for the people of Cuba. He eventually became a member of the Liberal Democratic Cuban Party and the director of the Liberal Studies Center. As Mr. Maseda became more active within the movement, he began to chronicle the savage practices of the regime for independent newspapers and websites. Unfortunately, not all of these articles reached the outside world, among the articles confiscated by the political police were: "The forced workers of Cuba" and "Havana: the capital of sexual tourism."

On March 18, 2003, Mr. Maseda was arrested and his typewriter, a fax machine, books, and his journalistic writings were confiscated. In a sham trial, he was subsequently sentenced to 20 years in the Cuban gulag for writing articles "which twist the society and reality of Cuba" and for "maintaining relations with Florida International University."

Mr. Maseda currently languishes in the Cuban totalitarian gulag. He has been muted and gagged for writing about the systematic abuses of human rights that occur under Castro's totalitarian rule. Mr. Speaker, the reality of Castro's repressive regime continues to be that men and women who write the truth are locked in the Cuban gulag while their oppressor remains in power.

My colleagues, we must fight for freedom whenever and wherever human beings are shackled by totalitarian dictators. We must demand the immediate release of Héctor Fernando Maseda Gutierrez.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEANNE POWER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Jeanne Power, and thank her for the extraordinary contributions she has made to the community of Steamboat Springs and the State of Colorado. Jeanne has spent her life assisting others, and her dedication and selflessness is a shining example to all Americans.

After graduating from the University of Wyoming, Jeanne returned to her home in Steamboat Springs, where she became a member of

the Routt County Search and Rescue team. Later, she joined Steamboat Springs Ambulance as an Emergency Medical Technician. Five years ago, Jeanne found her true calling when she became the city's only female firefighter.

Jeanne now serves the City of Steamboat Springs as a paramedic and firefighter. In such a high-pressure career, she has managed to achieve a delicate balance between her fun-loving attitude and intense dedication to serving others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I bring the life and spirit of an incredible woman to the attention of this body of Congress. Jeanne Power has dedicated her life to the betterment of others, and she is truly a tremendous asset to her city, state and country. Jeanne, I thank you for your service.

IN HONOR OF THE AILEYCAMP
AND KANSAS CITY FRIENDS OF
ALVIN AILEY RECEIVING THE
2003 COMING UP TALLER AWARD

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the AileyCamp of the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey as recipients of the 2003 Coming Up Taller Award. The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities presents this annual recognition to groups who encourage underserved youth to participate in the arts and humanities. The AileyCamp in Kansas City is one of 18 organizations to receive this prestigious distinction and \$10,000 to continue their philanthropic efforts to bring the art of dance to our community's urban youth.

I applaud the AileyCamp's undertakings to nurture a love for the arts and humanities in the next generation. The AileyCamp uses dance in varying techniques to develop skilled performers in ballet, jazz, tap, African dance, and other dance styles. This unique organization follows in the tradition of the accomplished dancer and choreographer, Alvin Ailey, who maintained an internationally acclaimed dance company and created 79 renowned ballets over his lifetime. His contribution to dance drew upon history, the blues and the gospel. Ailey envisioned an institution to instill appreciation for dance and culture especially for all young people.

Our community's children in the AileyCamp are immersed in a six week program offering training by top dance instructors, visual artists, and social workers for 11–14 year olds. These middle school students come from disadvantaged families and at-risk situations throughout Kansas City. AileyCamp provides a safe haven for creative activity where students develop their imagination through storytelling, writing, music, photography, and sculpture. These multi-discipline activities enhance and build upon their ability to express creatively, to analyze critically, and to foster academic excellence. Additionally, the campers take part in field trips and attend classes on conflict resolution, self-esteem, and goal setting.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the AileyCamp of Kansas City for this award. The AileyCamp is a tremendous organization performing in the spirit of the celebrated Alvin Ailey to broaden the horizons of our youth so that their artistic talents may bloom. I salute Ms. Cynthia Rider, Executive Director of Kansas City's AileyCamp and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey for their 2003 Coming Up Taller award.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT D.
KESSELRING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Robert "Kess" Kesselring of Aspen, Colorado. Kess passed away recently after a courageous 10-year battle with prostate cancer. He was widely loved for his willingness to teach and help others. Because of his positive impact on the Aspen community, it is my privilege to honor the life and memory of Robert Kesselring.

Kess was born in Oakland, California in November of 1937. He graduated with a degree in finance from San Jose State University in 1959, where he was a member of the alpine ski team. Throughout his life, Kess was an avid outdoorsman, traveler and adventurer. He was an excellent sailor, and represented the United States in the 1973 Fireball World Sailing Championships.

Kess held many jobs and had many interests. Each related to his intense passion for serving others. Kess was a teacher, ski patrolman, ski instructor and fishing guide. In light of his love for flyfishing, Kess eventually moved to Aspen, the trout capital of Colorado. While in Aspen, Kess was a fishing guide on numerous rivers and lakes in Garfield and Pitkin Counties.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Kesselring was a friend to many, and a teacher who enhanced countless lives. He will long be remembered for his willingness to share his knowledge of the outdoors with others. To this day, one can find fly fishermen throughout the Roaring Fork Valley who owe their love of fly-fishing to Kess. He was a remarkable Coloradan who will truly be missed. It is my honor to pay tribute to him here today, and my thoughts go out to his family during this time of bereavement.

REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON U.S.-INDONESIAN RELATIONS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, recently, the National Commission on U.S.-Indonesian Relations released a report that focuses on how to create a long-term, strong relationship between the two nations, and why that is important for the United States.

The report, which was the work of a combined group of academics, former diplomats,

and business people took a year to research and write. Indonesia is an important country for the United States due to its strategic location in Asia and because much of the world's sea borne commerce passes through or next to Indonesian territory. It is active in forums, such as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, where other key nations such as China, Japan and Korea are active. Finally, it is the world's fourth most populous nation and the world's largest Muslim nation.

Indonesia is also important for the United States because it is a democracy striving to strengthen itself in the face of growing Islamic fundamentalism. If the United States cannot help Indonesia move further down the path toward democracy, we stand little chance of helping other Muslim nations do the same, a goal that is so crucial in our global fight against terrorism.

The key finding of the Commission is a simple one—the United States and Indonesia can best help each other by creating a new partnership, one that the Commission calls a "Partnership for Human Resource Development." From the U.S. perspective, this means investing in Indonesian education, democracy building, economic growth and security.

I also believe the United States can play a critical role in helping Indonesia handle its massive urbanization trend and the infrastructure, health, and environmental challenges that result. There are now 50 cities in Indonesia with a population of at least 100,000, with eight of these cities in excess of a million residents.

Our relationship with Indonesia will continue to play a critical role in Southeast Asia and the world. The National Commission's report is worthy of our review and action. I commend the work of the Commission and I urge my colleagues to read the report. I ask that the Executive Summary of it be included with my remarks.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation and third largest democracy, is the pivotal state in Southeast Asia. It has exercised major influence in the region and plays an active and constructive international role. It has vast natural resources and is strategically located astride major lines of communication between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Half of the world's merchant fleet capacity passes through straits with Indonesian territory on one or both shores. Including its oil and mineral sectors, Indonesia is home to about \$25 billion in U.S. investment, with more than 300 major U.S. firms represented there.

Two additional factors are of particular importance today:

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population—more than all the Middle Eastern Arab states combined. The vast majority of Indonesia's Muslims have historically been noted for their moderation. There is one of the few Muslim majority nations in which Islam is not the state religion.

Given its size and importance, Indonesia is critical to stability in Southeast Asia. It has been the anchor of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and a key player in the ASEAN Regional Forum, the only organization in the Asia-Pacific region that brings the United States together with Japan, China, ASEAN and others to discuss security issues.

Today Indonesia faces major problems: a difficult transition from authoritarian rule to democracy; slow economic growth combined with inadequate job creation; capital